

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY**

2022

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, women are vital to the growth of the economy and diversity of businesses nationwide; according to the U.S. Census Bureau women-owned firms made up more than 20 percent of all firms across the country, employing 10.1 million people and generating \$1.8 trillion in sales in 2018, and are the fastest growing segment of entrepreneurship post-pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, in North Carolina, women make up 71.8 percent of the workforce and own approximately 44.2 percent of businesses across North Carolina, according to the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Small Business Administration, in 2020 and 2021 respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, Black and Latinx women were among the many small business owners hit the hardest by the economic fallout from the pandemic, and the gender wage gap remains across North Carolina and nationwide, with women in North Carolina earning a median income of \$43,524, an average of \$10,140 less than their male counterparts; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is working to improve inequities for women and communities of color; Executive Order 268 re-established the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force, with the mission to identify best practices and advise state government on actions that will further the economic development of disadvantaged communities, improve health and wellness outcomes in underserved communities, and advance equitable practices within state agencies that are inclusive of the lived experience of all North Carolinians; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses, in collaboration with the Carolina Small Business Development Fund and the NC Institute for Minority Economic Development, launched RETOOLNC, a small business grant program, to help certified minority and women-owned businesses recover post-pandemic; to date the program has successfully disbursed more than \$39 million to North Carolina historically underutilized businesses and disadvantaged business enterprises; and

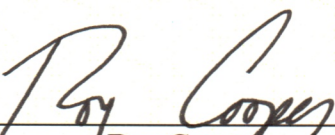
**WHEREAS**, eradicating extreme poverty across our nation and throughout the world depends on ensuring inclusive economic growth that reaches typically excluded populations, particularly women; and

**WHEREAS**, Women's Entrepreneurship Day seeks to bring awareness and support women in business globally by encouraging women leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs to initiate startups, drive economic expansion, and advance communities worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina recognizes and promotes the advancement of women's entrepreneurship throughout our state, nation, and the world;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2022, as "**WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventeenth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.